

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system is provided, the system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the

data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected first database file; and

a fourth server ~~for~~ hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority.

2. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system is provided, the system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected first database file;

a fourth server ~~for~~ hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority;

a fifth server ~~for~~ hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the third server; and

a sixth server ~~for~~ hosting a sixth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system is provided, the system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first

database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected first database file; and

a fourth server ~~for~~ hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

at least one application for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, for system backup and recovery operations, for system real-time and continuous accessibility, for operating system monitoring and for system load balancing and scalability.

5. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system is provided, the system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected first database file;

a fourth server ~~for~~ hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for

remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority;
and

at least one application for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, for system backup and recovery operations, for system real-time and continuous accessibility, for operating system monitoring and for system load balancing and scalability;

a fifth server ~~for~~ hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the third server; and

a sixth server ~~for~~ hosting a sixth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

6. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled, service provider system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

a fourth server ~~for~~ processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server including

a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive

communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module.

7. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled, service provider system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

a fourth server ~~for~~ processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server including

a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module;

a fifth server ~~for~~ hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the third server; and

a sixth server ~~for~~ hosting a fifth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled, service provider system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server ~~for~~ hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a second server ~~for~~ hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server ~~for~~ hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

a fourth server ~~for~~ hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server including a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

a fifth server ~~for~~ hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fifth server including an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions, including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module.

10. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled apparatus for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the apparatus having a modular architecture which comprises:

a first device having modular applications programming for receiving XML-based transactional data from a Web-based server and storing the data in a first selected file;

a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and effecting storage of the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database; and

a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority.

11. (currently amended) A program controlled apparatus for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the apparatus having modular architecture which comprises:

a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that electronically contacts a service provider system each time a taxable transaction is initiated;

a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a server of a service provider, the programming identifying the jurisdiction from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which the merchandise is shipped, ~~and~~ the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction;

a third device having modular transaction processing programming for consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, and extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention;

a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the funds corresponding to the taxes owed on those taxable transactions that do not otherwise require human intervention ~~electronically~~ to an account of a selected financial institution;

a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

a sixth device having modular reporting and/or auditing programming for generating interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

12. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having architecture for providing tax computation and remittance services over an interactive communications network, the system including:

a first device having modular applications programming for receiving XML-based transactional data from a Web-based server and storing the data in a first selected file;

a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing in real-time any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and effecting storage of the amount due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database; and

a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority.

13. (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular architecture for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first device having modular applications programming for receiving XML-based transactional data from a Web-based server and storing the data in a first selected file;

a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention, and effecting storage of the amount due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected file of the database; and

a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority.

14. (currently amended) A program controlled system having modular architecture for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that electronically contacts a service provider system each time a taxable transaction is initiated;

a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a server of a service provider, the programming identifying the jurisdiction from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which the merchandise is shipped, and the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction, calculating any taxes due on the transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, and extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention;

a third device having modular transaction processing programming for consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, and extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention;

a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the funds corresponding to the taxes owed on those taxable transactions that do not otherwise require human intervention ~~electronically~~ to an account of a selected financial institution;

a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

a sixth device having modular reporting [and/or] auditing programming for generating interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).